



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

VOLUME 12, NO 2

Summer 2011



Orleans Branch, Ottawa Public Library

From the Editor's Desk.....	Joan Scott	3
Library Services in Gloucester Township	Robert Serré and Glenn Clark	4
The Hamilton Powder Company Controversy	Glenn Clark	6
Publications.....		8
Membership Form.....		10

THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE
THAT ITS HISTORY ROOM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
EACH THURSDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
BETWEEN MAY 5 AND OCTOBER 27, 2011,
OR BY APPOINTMENT

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Robert Serré at 613-749-0607 or bob.rosealine@gmail.com

Cover Photo:

The cover photo is of the Orléans Branch of the Ottawa Public Library. It is located at 1705 Orléans Boulevard, Orléans, Ontario.

This branch was previously housed in several different locations before the current building was erected in 1985.

Historic Gloucester is published by The Gloucester Historical Society. It is intended as a Newsletter to members of the Society to provide interesting articles on Gloucester's past and to keep them informed of new acquisitions by the Museum, publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.



Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

On April 17, 2011 the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucester Historical Society was held at the Seniors' Centre in Leitrim. The speaker this year was Joy Forbes and she gave a very interesting and humourous talk on one-room schoolhouses. Included was excerpts from her book "Perseverance, Pranks and Pride—Tales of the One-Room Schoolhouse." Copies of her book were sold after the meeting. Refreshments were also served.

Changes to the Board of Directors were the addition of Russell Johnston who was nominated from the floor. With the retirement of Graham Ritchie there is still one seat available on the board.

We are always looking to enhance our family records of Gloucester families. If you have any information you would like to share with us, or if you would like to discuss anything concerning Gloucester and its people, please phone the GHS office at 613-822-2076 and leave a message and someone will get back to you.

The Board of Directors meets the third Saturday of every month at 9:30 am in the Research Room. Anyone is welcome to come to these meetings so please feel free to join us some time.

*Joan Scott,
Newsletter Editor*

Board of Directors 2011-2012

President:	Robert Serré	Directors:	Bob Kemp
Past President:	Mary Boyd		Jean-Marc Jossinet
Vice-President and Webmaster:	Glenn Clark		Aline Mageau
Treasurer:	Flo McRostie		Mary Patterson
Secretary:	Shirley McCooeye		Russell Johnston
Newsletter Editor:	Joan Scott		

Library Services in Gloucester Township

by Robert Serré and Glenn Clark

In the late 1950s, Marcel Bériault and his wife Dolores, of Orleans, had the idea of starting a library, and it was opened in September 1958, the school board having offered an empty classroom in the basement of St. Joseph School, where Dolores was a kindergarten teacher. Marcel and Dolores took about fifty books from their own home to start the collection, and within a few weeks, the parish priest had donated some two hundred books. Other donations of books and money were received, and by 1962 the collection included close to one thousand books.

The Police Village of Orleans established a library board in 1962. It provided the only library service in Gloucester Township. Marcel Bériault was the chairman of the recreation commission, and a motion was passed whereby the recreation commission granted the library \$300 in 1963, \$300 again in 1964, and \$100 in 1965. In 1966, the Township Council formed the Gloucester Library Board, and the Orleans Library, with its holdings, became the property of the **Gloucester Township Public Library Board**.

The **first branch** was given new quarters in 1967 when the Orleans Library was moved from the old school to its new location above the bank in the Jean Gauthier building, at 2744 St. Joseph Boulevard, almost directly opposite the church. The official opening took place on 17 November 1967. In November 1978, the **Orleans Branch** was renamed the Bériault Branch, in honour of Dolores and Marcel Bériault. In 1982, it was moved to the Orléans Recreation Complex, and three years later a new home was built for it at its present address, 1705 Orléans Boulevard.

A **second branch** was opened in May 1971, at 2020 Ogilvie Road, on the second floor of the Earl Armstrong Arena. This branch was temporarily closed in May and June 1984 when it was discovered that the floor did not meet building code standards, which led to its subsequent relocation [*Ottawa Citizen*, 14 Aug. 1984, p.28]. Known as the **Ogilvie Road Branch**, it was moved to the new Gloucester City Hall on 8 April 1987, and renamed the **City Hall Branch** [*Ottawa Citizen*, 30 March 1987, p.C3]. It was closed in December 1996 when the city hall was moved to a new location, and was replaced by the **North Gloucester Branch** which was opened in July 1997 in a new building at 2036 Ogilvie Road.

A **third branch** was organized in 1972 when a number of women from Kempark established the Gloucester South Mini-Library, housed in the storage room of the Leitrim Arena. Known as the **South Branch**, it was opened on 25 Feb. 1974 at 2958 Bank Street in Blossom Park. The South Branch was renamed the **Edward D. Jones Branch** on 29 Oct. 1977 [*Ottawa Citizen*, 28 Oct. 1977, p.4], after a former library trustee from Blossom Park. Then in 1982, it was moved to the basement of the former Dibblee Construction Building (now Adam's Airport Inn) at 2721 Bank Street [*Ottawa Citizen*, 14 Sept. 1981, p.4]. Known for a while as the **Blossom Park Branch**, its next address was 2950 Bank Street. The Blossom Park Branch closed in 2006, and was replaced by the **Greenboro District Branch**, which opened on 7 June 2006, and is located at 363 Lorry Greenberg Drive [*Ottawa Citizen*, 1 July 2006, p.E7].

A **fourth branch** was opened in 1973 in two rooms of the Glen Ogilvie school. It became known as the **Blackburn Hamlet Branch**. In 1975, it was moved into an office

building on Innes Road, and in 1980 it was relocated to the Commons Shopping Mall. Today its address is 199 Glen Park Drive.

At one minute past midnight on 1 January 2001, **amalgamation** became a reality, and Ottawa became a much larger city, taking in all the former townships of Carleton County. All remaining libraries in the former township of Gloucester became branches of the Ottawa Public Library, which was now comprised of thirty-three branches and one bookmobile. The former Gloucester Public Library and its four branches were now part of the Ottawa Public Library, but the history of libraries in the former township of Gloucester does not end there. The 2001 amalgamation was only the most recent in a series of annexations, by Ottawa, of lands in Gloucester Township. The first had occurred on 1 January 1887 when the village of New Edinburgh had been annexed to the City of Ottawa. In 1910, the New Edinburgh Branch of the Ottawa Public Library had been opened. It was closed in 1967. In the meantime, the largest appropriation of all had occurred in 1950 when Ottawa annexed 14,605 acres of land in Gloucester, including most of the populated areas west of St. Laurent Boulevard.

To complete this survey of libraries in Gloucester Township, it must be noted that five other libraries were established in those populated areas west of St. Laurent Boulevard. The **first**, now known as the **Vanier Branch**, had its origins in two libraries established in Eastview churches, one in the parish of Saint-Charles in 1944, the other in the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes in 1949. The two were brought together in 1966 within the recreation centre on Beechwood Avenue, and when the Public Libraries Act of 1967 came into force, the Eastview library was placed under city control. It was moved to the old

Montfort school, then to the basement of the fire station, and finally to the old monastery of the White Fathers. Its present address is 310 Pères Blancs Avenue. The **second**, known as the **St. Laurent Branch**, was opened in 1962 in a building on St. Laurent Boulevard. In 1994, it was deemed obsolete. On 22 August 1996, it became the first branch library to be located within a community centre. Its present address is 515 Côte Street, off St. Laurent Boulevard. The **third**, known as the **Elmvale Acres Branch**, was opened in 1963 in the shopping mall at 1910 St. Laurent Boulevard. In 1982, it was relocated within the mall. The **fourth**, known as the **Rockcliffe Park Branch**, was established in 1970, when the Village council accepted a motion to start a library. It was moved to the Rockcliffe Park Public School, and in November 1993 it was relocated in its own new building. Its present address is 380 Springfield Road. The **fifth**, known as the **Alta Vista Branch**, was opened in 1976, in a one-storey brick-and-glass building. Its present address is 2516 Alta Vista Drive.

Bibliography

- Bériault, Dolores, "25 Years of Library Service," *The Leader*, December 1983, page 10.
- Corbishley, Judy, "Volunteer Women Instigated Mini-library in 1972," *The Leader*, March 1982, pages 4-5.
- Émery, Robert et al. *Paroisse St-Joseph d'Orléans (1860-1985), 125e anniversaire*, 1985, 225 pages.
- Jenkins, Phil. *The Library Book: An Overdue History of the Ottawa Public Library 1906-2001*. Ottawa, Ottawa Public Library, 2002.
- MacQuarrie, Eleanor, "Gloucester Library Re-located," *The Leader*, March 1982, page 4.

The Hamilton Powder Company Controversy

by Glenn Clark

Part of doing business in a quarry involves blasting rock. Gun powder is an essential component and had been used even back in the days of the construction of the Rideau Canal. Often it was used unsafely with resulting loss of life and limb. The storage of 'powder' could also be dangerous and a small accident could cause an enormous explosion.

Since the Robillard or Gloucester Quarries were established as early as the 1840s [Serré p.9] on Montreal Road in the

vicinity of today's Codd's Road, a powder magazine was used to store dynamite or powder on site. At a July 6, 1908 meeting, the Hamilton Powder Company requested a permit from Gloucester Township Council to build a more substantial dynamite storehouse or magazine. This would enable substantially more dynamite to be stored near the quarries. Permission was granted [*Ottawa Citizen*, July 7, 1908 p.2].

Almost immediately, the residents of nearby Janeville and Cummings Bridge expressed concerns about their safety and the safety of those living in the adjacent village of Rockville and the soldiers at the military installation at the Rockcliffe Rifle Range. Dynamite was also to be transported along



Ruins of the Powder Magazine as they appeared in May 2011 near Greenhill Way

Montreal Road from the railway crossing in Janeville past many residences. At the August 10, 1908 meeting, Gloucester council rescinded the permit. However, the storehouse had already been built and dynamite was being stored on site. Council initiated legal action against the company to close the magazine [*Ottawa Citizen*, Aug. 21, 1908 p.2] and the court hearing took place on December 19, 1908 [*Ottawa Citizen*, Dec. 8, 1908 p.4]. The court decision favoured the company and they were allowed to maintain their operations [*Ottawa Citizen*, May 11, 1910 p.5].

Ongoing concerns were expressed from time to time about the location of various explosive storehouses in the Ottawa area but on May 8, 1910, there was a massive explosion at the General Explosive Company in Wrightville, Hull. Eleven people were killed [*Ottawa Citizen*, May 9, 1910 p.1.]. Following this disaster, the amount of dynamite stored at the Montreal Road magazine increased to as much as 40 tons. [*Ottawa Citizen*, May 28, 1910 p.1]

Prior concerns about the Hamilton Powder Company facility escalated but the company defended its 48 year accident free record. The seriousness of the situation following the Hull catastrophe resulted in a joint meeting of Ottawa mayor Charles Hopewell, and the reeves of Eastview and Gloucester [*Ottawa Citizen*, June 1, 1910 p.1]. At that meeting, it was understood that prior court action had confirmed the right of the company to conduct business at the Montreal Road site and in all likelihood further legal action would not be successful. It was suggested that a charge of nuisance could be assessed but given the safety record of the company, it would be better to request the separate storage of detonators in a stone

building and improve the safety of the building storing the dynamite itself [*Ottawa Citizen*, June 2, 1910 p.12].

It is unclear how long the powder magazine remained in use following the Hull incident. Quarry operations continued until the early 1960s [Serré p.16]. The last operating quarries in the vicinity were the Laurentian Stone Company quarry owned by the Robillard family, the D. Grandmaitre Ltd. quarry both of Montreal Road and the Kirby Quarry of St. Laurent Blvd. owned by Louis Sauve but also operated by D. Grandmaitre Ltd. [*Ottawa Citizen*, July 4, 1957 p.21]. These quarries built much of early Ottawa including the foundations and inner walls of the Parliament Buildings.

Bibliography

Serré, Robert – Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries in Eastern Ontario, 2004, photo Page 10.

*When a good friend walks beside us
On the road that we must keep,
Our burdens seem less heavy
And the hills are not so steep
The weariest miles pass swiftly,
Taken in a joyous stride,
And all the world seems brighter
When a friend walks by your side*

*No man or woman you may know
Has reached perfection yet,
And that is true of me and you
A point not to forget,
If you look for another's faults,
You're sure to find a few;
But if you seek their virtues, why,
You're sure to find them, too!
Expect the best from folk you meet
It helps to keep life rich and sweet.*

Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:

**For further details regarding publications visit our website: [www.gloucester history.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)
(Postage, if mailed, in brackets)**

<i>Blackburn - Glen Ogilvie - Centennial History 1887-1967</i> Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott	5.00 (3.00)
<i>Bowesville: A Place to Remember</i> By Grace Johnston	20.00 (12.00)
<i>Famillies pionnieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de l'Ontario</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Famillies pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Gloucester Lions Club Inc. , History of the First 42 Years, 1968 to 2010</i> By the History Committee of the Gloucester Lions Club and Robert Serré	25.00 (8.00)
<i>Gloucester Memories</i> By Mel Rowat	5.00 (3.00)
<i>Gloucester Roots</i> Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp	20.00 (5.00)
<i>Gloucester Township Ratepayers Listed by Family Name and Concession/Lot Number for the Years 1855, 1864 and 1872</i> Compiled by Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Hawthorne Reflections</i> by Laurel Sherrer	10 .00 (3.00)
<i>Memories of the Lock Stations</i> Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston	5.00 (3.00)
<i>Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in Gloucester 1892-1975</i> Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston	15.00 (5.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)

Publications (continued):

<i>Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Hurdman's Bridge (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Janeville (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of St. Joseph (Orleans) in Eastern Ontario</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Remembering Carlsbad Springs (Gloucester Township)</i> By Mary Boyd and Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township:</i> The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 1853-2003 By Glenn Clark	50.00 (20.00)
<i>1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township</i> The map shows who owned each lot in 1879 as well as the location of roads, churches, schools and interesting features of the township during that early time.	10.00 (5.00)

Note: Copies of publications may be ordered through: Robert Serré, President of the GHS, 1057 Riviera Drive, Ottawa K1K 0N7, e-mail: bob.rosealine@gmail.com. A shipping charge as shown for each publication will be added to mail orders.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

Members Wanted:

The Gloucester Historical Society is always looking for new members. Regardless of age, anyone who is interested in the history of Gloucester, as a Township, City, or part of the City of Ottawa, can benefit from membership in the Society. There is a well-stocked history room at our Leitrim Road office. Every Thursday, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from early May to the end of October, there are knowledgeable people there to help you in all aspects of research about your family, friends or neighbours in Gloucester.

Your membership entitles you to receive the *Historic Gloucester* newsletter four times a year so that you can keep up with what is going on with the GHS and read interesting articles of times and places of long ago. For more information on the Gloucester Historical Society be sure to check out our wonderful website at **www.gloucesterhistory.com**.

Family Histories Wanted:

If you have information on any family who resided in Gloucester, we would be happy to add this to our records. There may be others who would like to share this information but have been unable to find it. And, you may find that the family of someone you know was once a neighbour of your ancestors!

Volunteers Wanted:

The GHS is always looking for volunteers to assist others with research, to assist at society functions or to help the Board of Directors in many other ways.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR CHEQUE.

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion 2011 - \$15.00 for one year..... \$100.00 for life membership.....

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____ PROV:_____ POSTAL CODE _____

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society
4550B Bank Street,
Gloucester, Ontario
K1T 3W6